

Hanson, MA Area G  
 South Hanson  
 Main Street Area Data Sheet

<u>MHC</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Street</u>	<u>Style/Form</u>	<u>Date</u>
121	Foster House	799	Main Street	end house	1879-1903
122	Foster House	807	Main Street	gable block	1879-1903
123	Calder House	819	Main Street	Italianate mansard block	1879-1903
124	Howland House	822	Main Street	Italianate end house	1879-1903
125	Calder House	829	Main Street	Italianate mansard block	1879-1903
126	Josselyn House	830	Main Street	Italianate end house	1830-1856
127	Calder House	837	Main Street	Italianate mansard block	1879-1903
128	Beal House	847	Main Street	Italianate end house	1875-1876
129	Thomas House	848	Main Street	Italianate end house	1830-1856
130	Josselyn House	858	Main Street	Queen Anne end house	1906
131	Wade House	859	Main Street	Italianate end house	
132	house	871	Main Street	Classical foursquare	1881-1882
133	Clark House	876	Main Street	Dutch Colonial gambrel block	after 1930
134	Keene House	881	Main Street	Italianate end house	1920
					1856-1879

**FORM A - AREA**

Assessor's #'s                    USGS Quad  
**34-9, 7, 6; 42-44, 1, 43, Hanover**  
**2, 3, 42, 41, 4, 5, 39D, 5**

Area  
**G**

Form #  
**121-134**

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125



Town **Hanson**

Place **South Hanson**

Name of Area **Main Street, South Hanson**

Present Use **Residential**

Construction Dates/Period  
**1830-after 1930**

Overall Condition **fair to excellent; some residing; and other visible modern alterations**

Major Instructions and Alterations  
**windows enclosed; entries moved**

Acreage

Recorded by **Dempsey/Driemeyer**

Organization **Hanson Historical Commission**

Date **May 1996**



Sketch Map *see continuation sheet*

**AREA FORM**

Main Street, South Hanson

**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION** see continuation sheet

The South Hanson Main Street area contains a group of well-preserved, predominately late nineteenth century vernacular and popular residential forms with no major intrusions. The forms and styles represented in this group display the range of additional massing and decorative detailing characteristic of late nineteenth and early twentieth century houses. The group of fourteen houses, which line both sides of a primary east-west thoroughfare through south part of Hanson, vary in their set-back depending upon their period of development. Mature landscaping features indicate the development period and in some cases screen the houses from the heavily trafficked roadway. The houses can be assigned to one of three familiar houses types of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The largest group are one-and-one-half end houses with varying degrees of additional massing and either Greek Revival, Italianate or Queen Anne decorative detailing. The second group are a trio of vernacular two-story Italianate mansard blocks with wings, reminiscent of small-scale bent houses. The third group includes a much altered gable block and two early twentieth-century suburban house types.

**HISTORICAL NARRATIVE** see continuation sheet

The South Hanson Main Street area remained largely undeveloped until the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Valuation lists show that the house lots were generally less than one acre. Barns or stables, and hen and wood houses were the most common outbuildings in the early twentieth century. None of the property holders owned much livestock or more than 15 acres of pasture, wooded, tilling or meadow land. Historic maps show only one house (no longer extant), located on the south side of the street in 1830, though a cluster of scattered development was present to the east of the area between the Indian Crossway and Indian Head Street. By 1856 only two houses had been added to the area: the Josselyn House at 830 Main Street and the Thomas House at 848 Main Street. The Josselyn House was constructed by Benjamin W. Josselyn (1826-?), a carpenter, who occupied the house until after the turn of the century. By the early 1930s the house was owned by Albert L. Josselyn. Benjamin Josselyn also constructed the Thomas House a few years later for Elihu Thomas. The house remained in the Thomas family at least into the early 1930s. In 1903 George E. Thomas, co-owner of Thomas & Clark, groceries, was the owner. The 1856 valuation list distinguishes between Thomas' old house (located across the street) and new house, the later of which is valued at \$950. The list also values Josselyn's house at one-half of Thomas' suggesting the former may still have been under construction. Not until 1903 were the houses are of nearly equal value. Throughout that period Josselyn's property included a shop that was attached to the stable or barn and by 1903 he also had a pigeon house..

**REFERENCES**

- Smith, Plan of Hanson, 1830
- Walling, Map of Hanson, 1856
- Walker, Atlas of Plymouth County, 1879
- Richards, Atlas of Plymouth County, 1903
- White, Houses of Hanson
- Town of Hanson Valuation Lists, 1856, 1879, 1903

 Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. See NR Criteria Statement form.

## INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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Area Main Street, South Hanson, G

**Architectural Description, continued.**

The end house group includes eight houses: the **Foster House** at **799 Main Street** (form no.121), the **Howland House** at **822 Main Street** (form no.124), the **Josselyn House** at **830 Main Street** (form no.126), the **Beal House** at **847 Main Street** (form no.128), the **Thomas House** at **848 Main Street** (form no.129), the **Josselyn House** at **858 Main Street** (form no.130), the **Wade House** at **859 Main Street** (form no.131), and the **Keene House** at **881 Main Street** (form no.134). The two oldest and most extensively massed houses in this area are the adjacent mirror imaged Thomas and Josselyn Houses (nos. 848 and 830). Built by the same individual in the 1850s this pair have elongated wings that connect to their large-scale carriage houses. The second pile on both side elevations is augmented by square bay windows. 830 Main Street has a greater amount of symmetrical additional massing and appears to have undergone some modern alteration. The massing includes a two-story polygonal bay centered on the facade; full-depth porches and centered gabled wall dormers on both side elevations and a hipped wall dormer on the wing. An end gable addition connects the wing to the vertical board carriage house. The elaborate ornament includes cut-out verge boards on the gables. 848 Main Street is more restrained in its massing and ornamentation. Additional massing includes a square bay window on the facade screened by a full-width front porch that wraps around on both side elevations to the second pile and a large gabled wall dormer on the wing. This clapboarded house retains its original Greek Revival ornament including fluted Doric columns on the porch and slightly pedimented window hoods. These window hoods are also used on the well-preserved carriage house.

799, 822, 847 and 859 Main Street are all very similar in scale and massing, with Italianate detailing. All are one-and-one-half story, three-bay wide by two-bay deep end houses with one-and-one-half story gabled wings on the right side elevation. 799 Main Street is the plainest of the group, with several later additions including a broad shed-roofed dormer on the left-side elevation and a small addition that connects to the modern garage. The other three houses have square bay windows on the right-side at the second pile and full-width porches on the wing. 859 Main Street has a gabled wall dormer above the square bay window. 822 Main Street has a small, saltbox addition on the wing. Of this group 847 Main Street has the best preserved ornament, including a wide entablature, bracketed window hoods, and scrolled brackets under the porch frieze and on the entry hood. This house has a large-scale gable block carriage house with a facade gable. 881 Main Street is similar to these four houses in scale but it has no wing. Instead the interior space is augment by a series of one-story gabled rear ells.

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Area Main Street, South Hanson , 6

**Architectural Description, continued.**

858 Main Street was the last end house to be built in this area. The Queen Anne styled house has additional massing characteristic of that style and so varies slightly from the other end houses. The entry porch connects to a polygonal bay window that covers the right half of the facade. The second pile is augmented on the right-side elevation by a gabled bay that overhangs the first-story polygonal bay window and on the left-side by the extension of the roof slope over a square bay.

The Calder Houses at 819, 829 and 837 Main Street (form nos. 123, 125, 127) are a trio of adjacent, nearly identical, two-story mansard blocks with small-scale service wings and overscaled square bay windows on the street-side elevation. These three-bay wide by single-pile deep blocks are the least well-preserved houses in the area and each has undergone different degrees of alteration. 837 Main Street is the best preserved of the group and probably most representative of the group's original form and appearance. Both 819 and 837 have a porch that runs the full-width of the facade that wraps around to the wing, and a small, one-story offset rear addition. 829 is now sheathed with shingles and 819 is now sheathed with aluminum siding that also covers the square bay window and mansard roof. 819 has a modest, Mansard carriage house connected to the wing.

The most altered house in this area is the Foster House at 807 Main Street (form no. 122). This one-and-one-half story gable block has gabled wings that connects to the garage. The gable block is augmented by a shed-roofed dormer at the third bay on the facade and a two-story square bay on the rear elevation. The original centered entry has been enclosed.

The last two houses constructed in this area are examples of familiar early twentieth century suburban house types. The Clark House at 876 Main Street (form no. 133) is the largest house in the area, a five-bay wide, two-story, Dutch Colonial gambrel block. The house exhibits a number of characteristic massing features including one-story wings and a full-width shed-roofed dormer on the facade. The well-preserved ornament includes a pedimented entry porch with Tuscan columns. Outbuildings include a large, clipped-gable garage and a hip-roofed gazebo.

871 Main Street (form no. 132) is a two-and-one-half story Classical foursquare. This hipped block has several additional masses that augment the interior spaces. These include a full-width, glass-enclosed front porch, hip-roofed dormers on the front and side elevations, a polygonal bay window on the left-side elevation at the second pile and a small enclosed porch on the right-side elevation.

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Area **Main Street, South Hanson**, G**Historical Narrative, continued.**

Historic maps indicate that two houses date to the period 1856-1879. These are the Beal House at 847 Main Street and the Keene House at 881 Main Street. The Beal House was built in the winter of 1875-1876 by Gibson P. Beal, a carpenter. Ten years later he built the stable. Beal continued to own the house until sometime after the early 1930s. According to Joseph White the Keene House was built by 1878 by Frank F. Keene for Wesley P. Keene, a painter and paperhanger, whose paint shop was located on the property in 1903. The Keene family continued to own the house in the early 1930s. The T-shaped footprint present on the 1879 and 1903 maps does not correspond with the present building's footprint. Further research is necessary to clarify this discrepancy.

The majority of houses in the Main Street area were constructed in the period 1879-1903. This includes the Foster Houses at 799 and 807 Main Street, the Calder Houses at 819, 829, and 837 Main Street, the Howland House at 822 Main Street, and the Wade House at 859 Main Street. According to Joseph White the Wade House was built by Eliot W. Wade, a cranberry grower and carpenter and builder, in 1881-1882. Wade continued to own the house into the early 1930s. White indicates the Foster Houses were moved to their present locations from Fosterville opposite George Sturtevant's place. Both buildings were originally stores owned by John Foster that were converted to houses when they were moved to Main Street. By the early 1930s Walter Richards, a sawyer, owned 807 Main Street and Elmer Estes, an employee at Foster Mill, owned 799 Main Street. Some discrepancy exists between White and the 1903 maps concerning ownership. Further research is necessary to clarify this matter.

The Calder Houses were built in the late 1880s and early 1890s by Robert Calder. Calder, an overseer at Foster's Box Factory, first built 837 Main Street in 1886 for his own occupancy. Calder continued to own the house into the early 1930s. In 1891 he built the second house at 829 Main Street for Eugene Calder, a box factory employee, who still occupied the house in the early 1930s. By 1903 Eugene Calder also had a shop on the property. A year later Calder, along with Thomas G. Fuller, completed the third house, at 819 Main Street for Walter Calder, who had a general store nearby. Some discrepancy exists between the historic maps and Joseph White as to just how long Walter Calder occupied this house, and further research is necessary to clarify this. The Howland House at 822 Main Street was built by Austin B. Howland. Howland also built or converted several houses in the East Main Street Area (see Area H). By 1903 Marcus S. Josselyn, a foreman, owned the house and he continued to do so into the early 1930s.

## INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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Property Address

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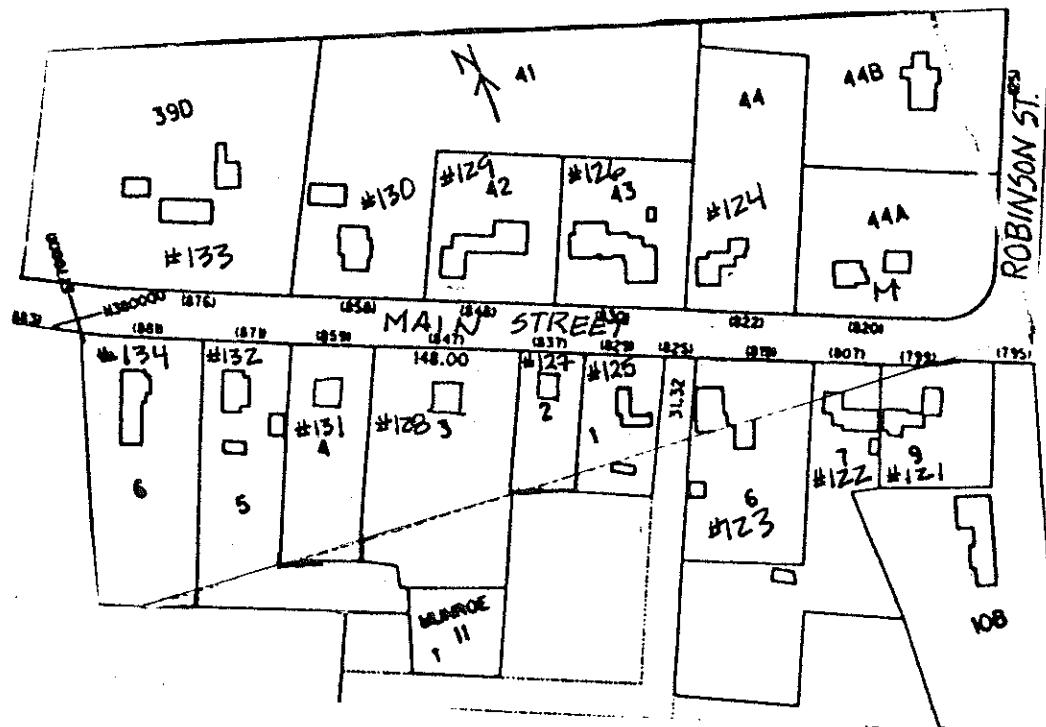
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**Historical Narrative, continued.**

Historic maps show that three houses in the area were built after 1903: the Josselyn House at 858 Main Street, the Clark House at 876 Main Street, and 871 Main Street. 858 Main Street was built in 1906 by A.W. Jackson of Whitman for Edgar C. Josselyn, who continued to own the house in the early 1930s. 876 Main Street was built in 1920 by James M. Bourne for Harold T. Clark who still owned the house ten years later. 871 Main Street appears to date to after the early 1930s as the building is not present in White's Houses. Further research is necessary to identify the house's original owner and date of construction.



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Area Main Street, South Hanson, G



799 Main ↓



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Area Main Street, South Hanson , ↗

847 Main  
↖



830 Main ↓



819,829 Main  
↖

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859 Main  
↖



858 Main ↓



848 Main  
↖

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### National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form



Check all that apply:

Individually eligible.  
 Contributing to a potential district.

Eligible only in a historic district.  
 Potential historic district.

Criteria:  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Statement of Significance by **Dempsey/Driemeyer**.

The South Hanson, Main Street area is significant as a well-preserved cluster of historic buildings in the town of Hanson, in a settlement configuration distinctive to the town and probably the region. In this area, many of the town's primary house types can be found, with a particularly strong cluster of the mid-19th century mansard blocks and end houses. The South Hanson, Main Street area meets criteria A and C at the local level and retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.